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THE·VISION·OF ESCAFLOWNE

There's trouble in Asturia. Allen Schezar has proven to be a strong ally to Van and Hitomi, but when his loyalty to the prince of Fanelia brings violent repercussions to his own king and countrymen, Allen is torn between his friends and his homeland. Princess Millerna has always had strong feelings for Allen, but she must put them aside and do what's best for her people... even if it means executing the man she loves!

100% AUTHENTIC MANGA

OT
OLDER TEEN
AGE 16+

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THE VISION OF
ESCAFLOWNE
5
Katsu Aki
Original Concept by Hajime Yatate & Shoji Kawamori
TOKYOPOP

エスカフローネ
ESCAFLOWNE

5

漫画 克・亜樹
原案 矢立肇／河森正治

THE VISION OF ESCAFLOWNE

Volume 5

By

KATSU AKI

Original concept
by
HAJIME YATATE
SHOJI KAWAMORI
(STUDIO NUE)

TOKYOPOP
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THE VISION OF ESCAFLOWNE

INTRODUCTION

"Tenkuu no Escaflowne" ("Escaflowne of the Heavens," or "The Vision of Escaflowne" in North America) began as a story in the minds of Hajime Yatate and Shoji Kawamori, brilliant creators who planned Hitomi's epic tale to appear as an animated television series. While most anime series begin as manga, Escaflowne's two manga series were built off the ideas developed for the anime. Yuzuru Yashiro's shojo, or "girls'" manga, is two volumes in length. In contrast, Katsu Aki's shonen, or "boys'" manga, is much longer and happens to be the version you now hold in your hands.

Aki-sensei handled both the art and writing for this title, and it was actually the first version of Escaflowne to reach the public. While based on the concept of the anime, it began its serialization before the anime was complete. This version of the Escaflowne tale has a different flavor from the television series, with more action, tweaked character design, and an altered story. As a result, it is difficult to closely compare the two—they are simply two different versions of Hitomi's adventures. Escaflowne's versatility has always fetched great praise over the years. Its manga counterparts only expand the work's reach and deepen its universe. With that in mind, please put aside all preconceptions you may have as you sit back, relax, and enjoy this new look at the world of Escaflowne as you've never seen it before.

Lianne Sentar, April 2003

Special thanks to Egan Loo and his Escaflowne Compendium (http://www.anime.net/escaflowne/)

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The Vision of Escaflowne Vol. 5

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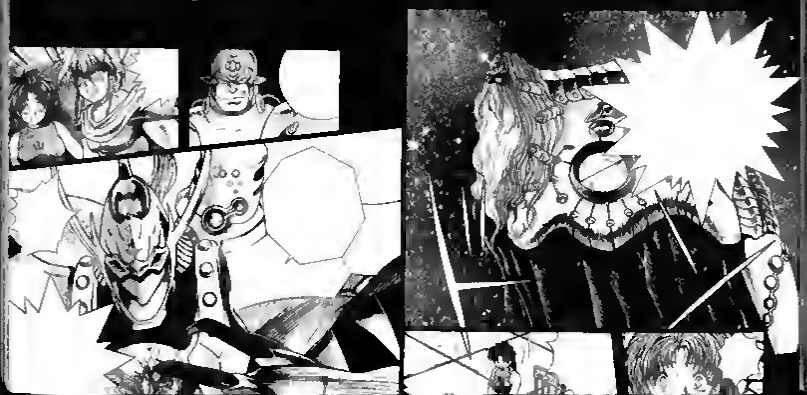
The Story Thus Far

In hot pursuit of the kidnapped Queen Escalina, Prince Van, Fanelian warrior Shian and schoolgirl-turned-Energist Hitomi Hoshino reached the Forest of Deception–only to discover Dilandau had already murdered the Queen. Unfortunately, Van was left with little time to mourn before Zaibach's shape-shifting warriors, Colt and Shilha, attacked the group, impaled Hitomi, and somehow sent Hitomi's soul reeling back to Earth. Before Van or Shian could react, Colt and Shilha made off with both the Energist crystal that housed Hitomi's soul and the mechanical deity Escaflowne.

While Hitomi tried to readjust to life on Earth, Van, Shian, and the Asturian knight Allen Schezar returned to the Holy Spring Ubdo to perform a ritual that could summon Hitomi back to Gaea. All went well until the spell was mysteriously deflected and Hitomi found herself deep in the Zaibach Empire, right in Emperor Dornkirk's clutches. However, the Emperor's interest in Hitomi waned when he discovered that her body is an Ubdo Energist housing an ancient soul. Van and Allen managed to rescue Hitomi and regain Escaflowne, but not before Zaibach Admiral Zongi arrived to detain them.



ESCAFLOWNE VOL.5

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RENEGADE?!

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THE REVOLUTIONIST'S ARMY

CHARACTER INTRODUCTIONS

Demon Knight
One of the most vicious Knight Machines in the Zaibach Empire, the Demon Knight is piloted by Zongi.

Zongi
A Rayon warrior who now serves as an Admiral in the Zaibach army. A brutal warrior and brilliant commander, if Zongi has one soft spot, it's for his niece, Shiiha.

Dilandau
Executive Captain of the Zaibach Empire, Dilandau Albatou was originally from Fanelia, but left the kingdom shortly after killing his own mother. After loyally serving Zaibach, Dilandau kidnapped Queen Escalina and fled the Empire.

Escalina
Queen of Fanelia and Van's mother, Escalina was kidnapped by Dilandau. When the Zaibach captain accidentally murdered her, Van swore vengeance against Dilandau, despite Escalina's insistence that he let go of his hate.

Dornkirk
The emperor of Zaibach, Dornkirk has very mysterious origins. Aided by Zaibach's technological prowess, Dornkirk has set his sights on conquering Earth.

Hitomi
An ordinary girl who loves reading fortunes, Hitomi Hoshino's soul was involuntarily transported from the Earth to Gaea to be the source of Escaflowne's power.

Van
Prince of the Kingdom of Fanelia and pilot of Escaflowne, Van Slanzar de Fanelia seeks vengeance against the Zaibach Empire for destroying his homeland and kidnapping his mother.

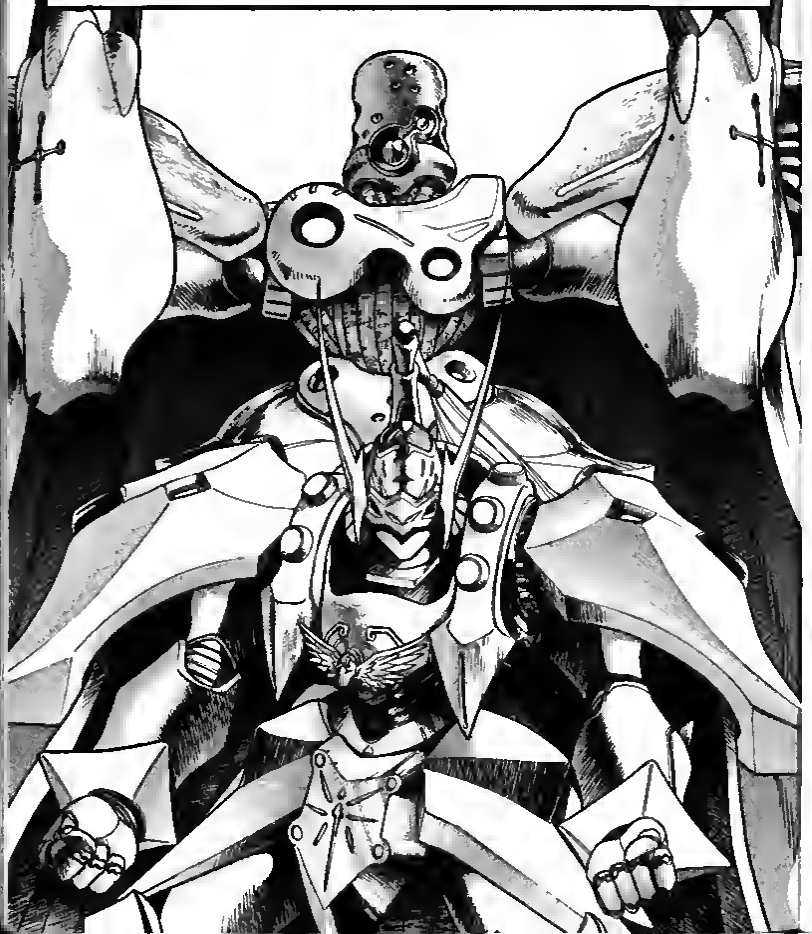
Allen
Head of the Knights Caell of the Asturian Royal House and pilot of Scherazade. Allen Schezar VIII broke Asturia's non-aggression treaty with the Zaibach Empire by protecting Van and Hitomi.

Scherazade
A legendary Knight Machine piloted by Allen Schezar VIII.

Escaflowne
A powerful Knight Machine piloted by Van and powered by Hitomi, Escaflowne is both the protector and deity of the people of Fanelia.

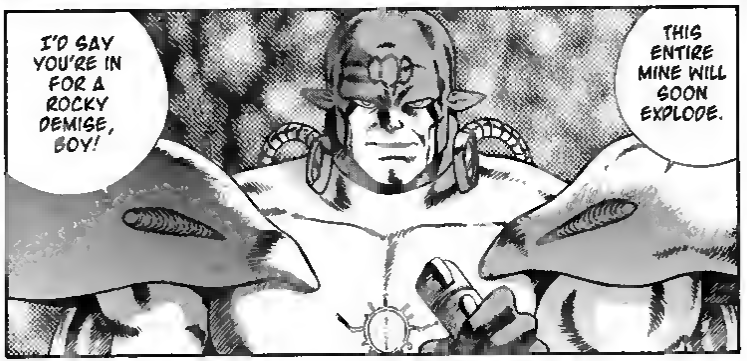
VISION 19:

SUICIDE BOMBING

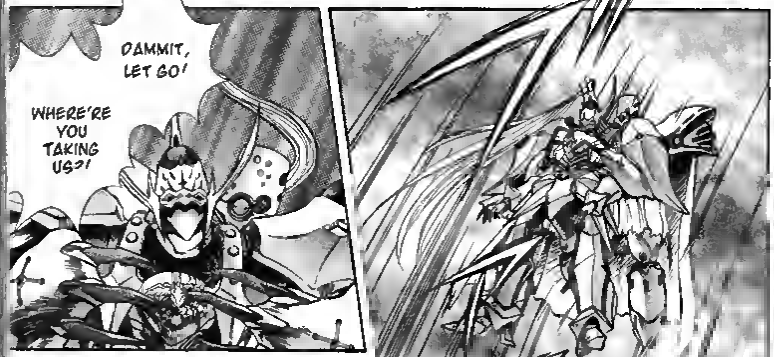


NOW, NOW.
VAN, HOLD ON!
DAMN IT.
LET THE BOYS PLAY.
HITOMI? WHAT'S WRONG?
Huff!
Huff!
ZONG!, YOU SON OF A BITCH!

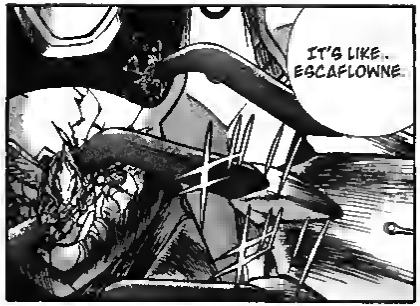
YOU LIKE THAT?
MY METAL CLAWS HAVE SOME BITE, DON'T THEY?

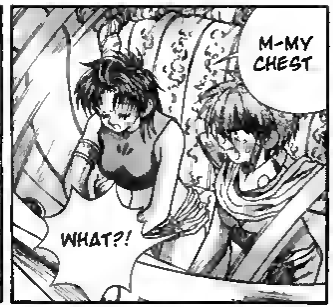

I'D SAY YOU'RE IN FOR A ROCKY DEMISE, BOY!
THIS ENTIRE MINE WILL SOON EXPLODE.

THAT'S MY CUE TO STEP UP THIS ATTACK!
THEY'RE NOT POWERING UP. SOMETHING MUST HAVE HAPPENED.


DAMMIT, LET GO!
WHERE'RE YOU TAKING US?!

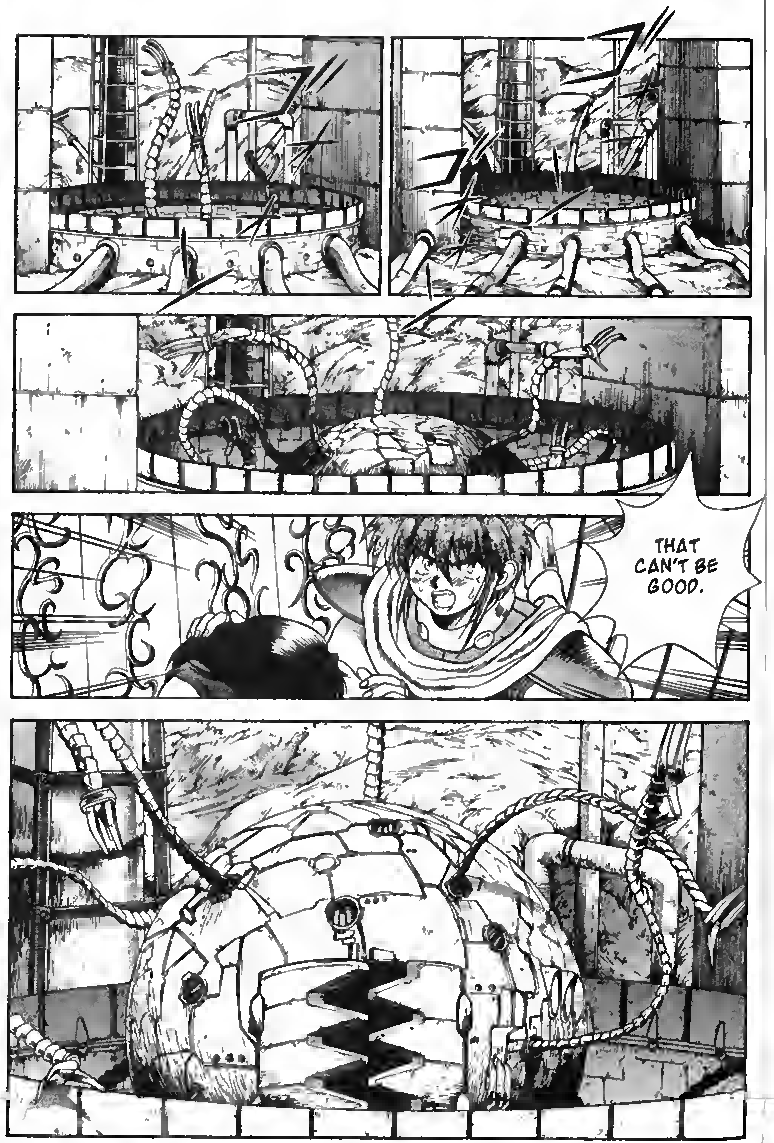
!!

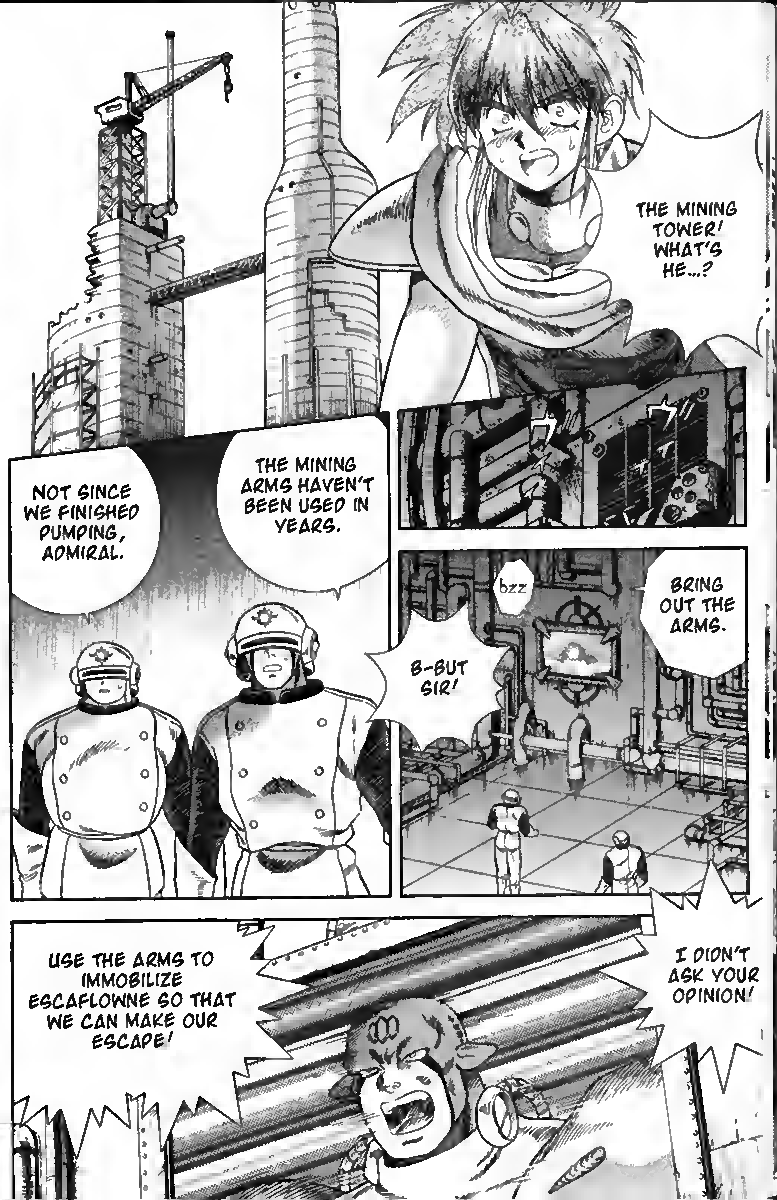

IT'S LIKE.. ESCAFLOWNE.


M-MY CHEST
WHAT?!

EVEN IF... LITTLE ESCA AND I WERE HURT, I C-COULD STILL FUNCTION.
IF ONLY I COULD SYNCHRONIZE...
Huff!
Huff!

SHE CAN'T SYNCH BECAUSE OF THE PAIN
HITOMI!


THAT CAN'T BE GOOD.


THE MINING TOWER! WHAT'S HE...?
NOT SINCE WE FINISHED PUMPING, ADMIRAL.
THE MINING ARMS HAVEN'T BEEN USED IN YEARS.
bzz
B-BUT SIR!
BRING OUT THE ARMS.
USE THE ARMS TO IMMOBILIZE ESCAFLOWNE SO THAT WE CAN MAKE OUR ESCAPE!
I DIDN'T ASK YOUR OPINION!

?!
GIVE IT UP, PRINCE.
WHAT THE HELL?!
CRAP! I CAN'T MOVE!
!!
THEY'RE TRYING TO TRAP US!
DAMMIT, LET GO!
..WE COULD TRASH THIS PLACE.
THIS BITES. IF HITOMI WASN'T HURT...

GOOD-BYE, MY LITTLE PRINCE.
Huh...
SON OF A BITCH!
NN
M...
SCREW YOU!
WH-WHO IS THAT?
HAVE FAITH.
YOU MUST BELIEVE...

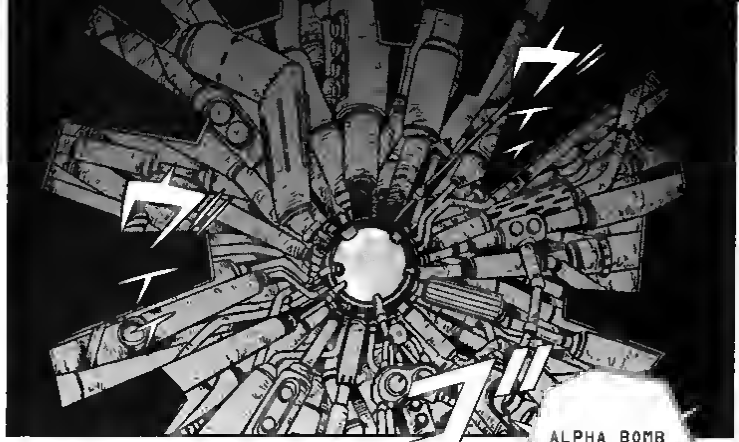
THE ENERGIST'S STARTING THE SYNCH!
POWER UP!
PLEASE, ESCAFLOWNE!
IT'S...IT'S THE VOICE OF THE ENERGIST!
TRUST YOUR OWN POWER.
IT'S...
HITOMI?!

HOW ARE THEY...?
EAT THIS, ASSWIPE!
YOU GOT IT, HITOMI!

BOOM. HA HA!
NICE TRY, KID.
DAMN RIGHT IT WAS!
YOU THINK YOU'RE SAFE?
YOU MISERABLE LITTLE BRATS CAN'T COMPREHEND THE DANGER YOU'RE IN!
CRAP.

OH, GOD!
THE PLACE'S COMING DOWN SHIT!
I'VE ALREADY GIVEN MY LIFE TO ZAIBACH. I HAVE NO REGRETS.
..DO YOU REALLY WANNA DIE LIKE THIS?
LOOK, ZONGI...
SHIT! WE STILL CAN'T SHAKE OFF THE DAMN CLAW!
ARE YOU NUTS?!
WE'RE NOT GOING ANYWHERE. THIS MINE WILL TAKE US ALL DOWN!
HA HA! I'LL SAVE YOU A SEAT IN HELL.
BITE ME, ZONGI!

HUH? WHAT'S...?
BUT IT WAS ONLY FOR A SECOND.
WHO WAS..?
I... I THINK I JUST SAW SOMETHING...
YO, HITOMI?
PLEASE, ZONGI, DON'T DO THIS!
ZAIBACH KILLED OUR PEOPLE SCREW THE EMPIRE!
NOBODY UNDERSTANDS YOU BETTER THAN I DO.
YOU LITTLE SHITS WILL NEVER UNDERSTAND-- IT'S NOT A CHOICE, IT'S AN OBLIGATION.
DAMN.
HA HA HA HA HA!
MY HUMANITY'S ALREADY LONG GONE!
FOR THEM, I SOLD MY SOUL TO ZAIBACH!
I THREW AWAY THE PRIDE OF RAYON FOR THE SURVIVAL OF MY RACE.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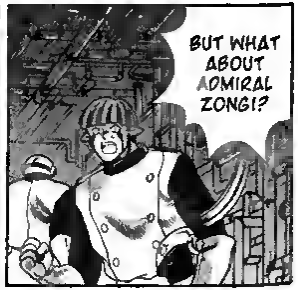
ALPHA BOMB INITIATION 30% LEFT TO CRITICAL.
ゴゴゴ

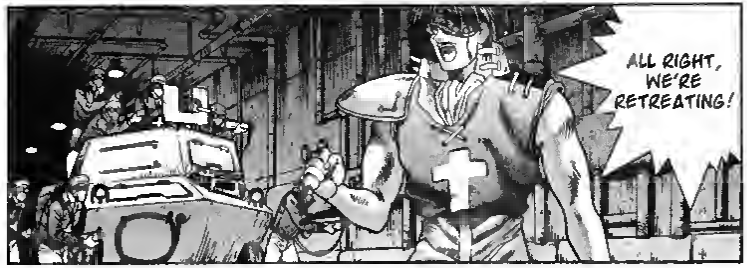
GET OUT OF HERE BEFORE THIS PLACE BLOWS!
ゴゴ

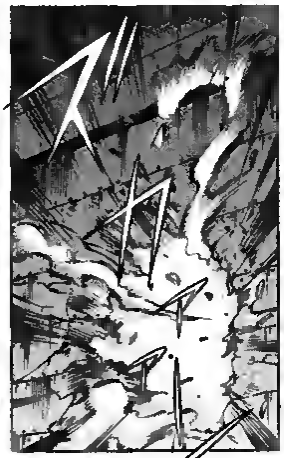
WE CAN'T LEAVE THE CHIEF BEHIND!


BUT WHAT ABOUT ADMIRAL ZONGI?

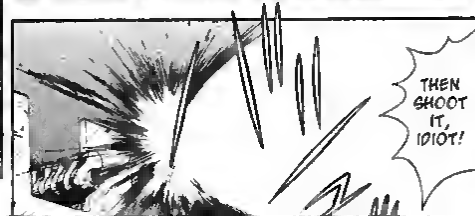
WELL, DAMN ZAIBACH'S CLEANING UP

THEY'RE WHAT?
SIR, THE SELF-DETONATORS ARE GOING OFF!


ALL RIGHT, WE'RE RETREATING!



THE DOOR'S CLOSING!

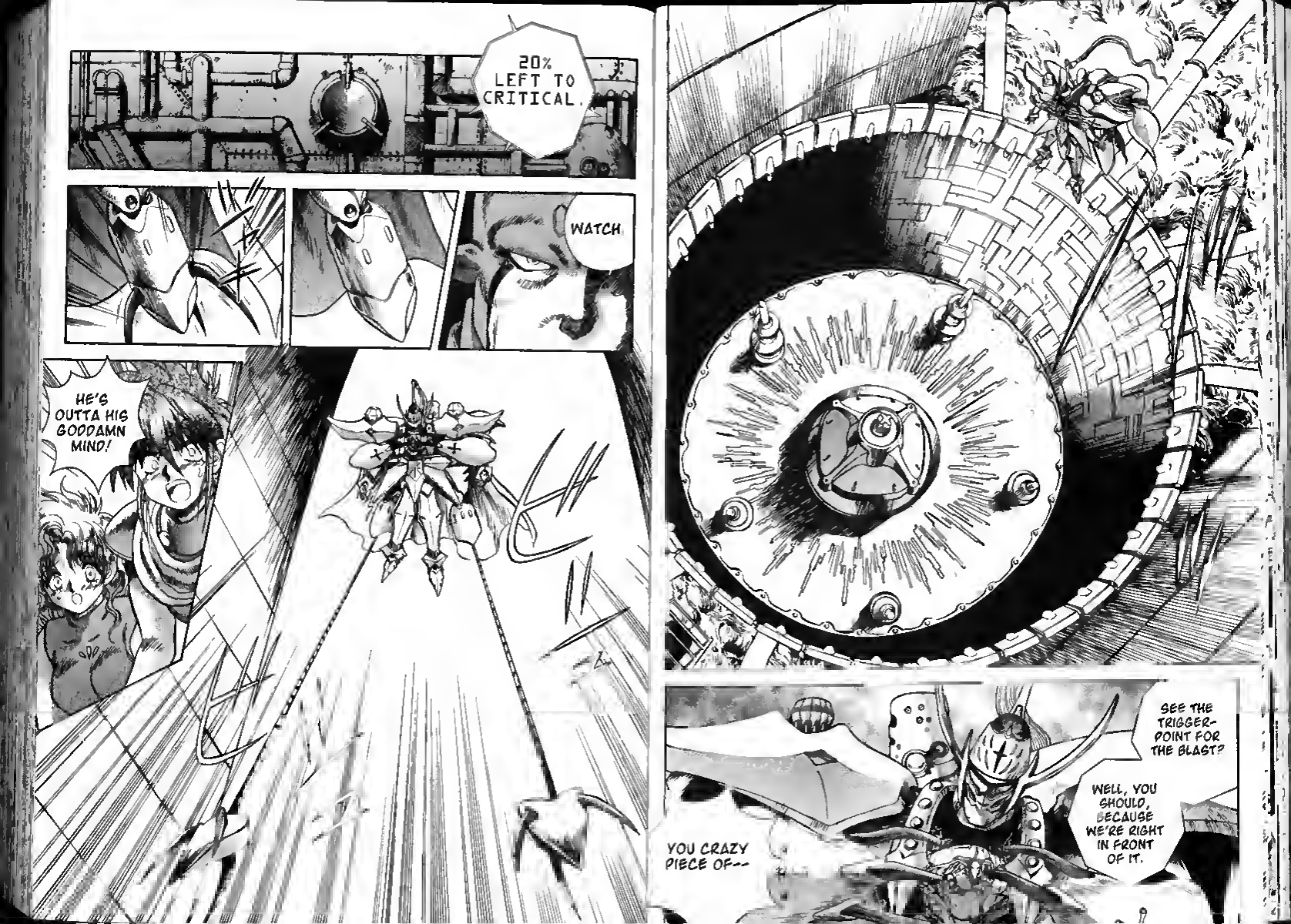

THEN SHOOT IT, IDIOT!

LET GO!
YOU'RE CRAZY. IF WE CRASH AT THIS SPEED...
I'M NOT KIDDING, ZONG! LET GO!!!

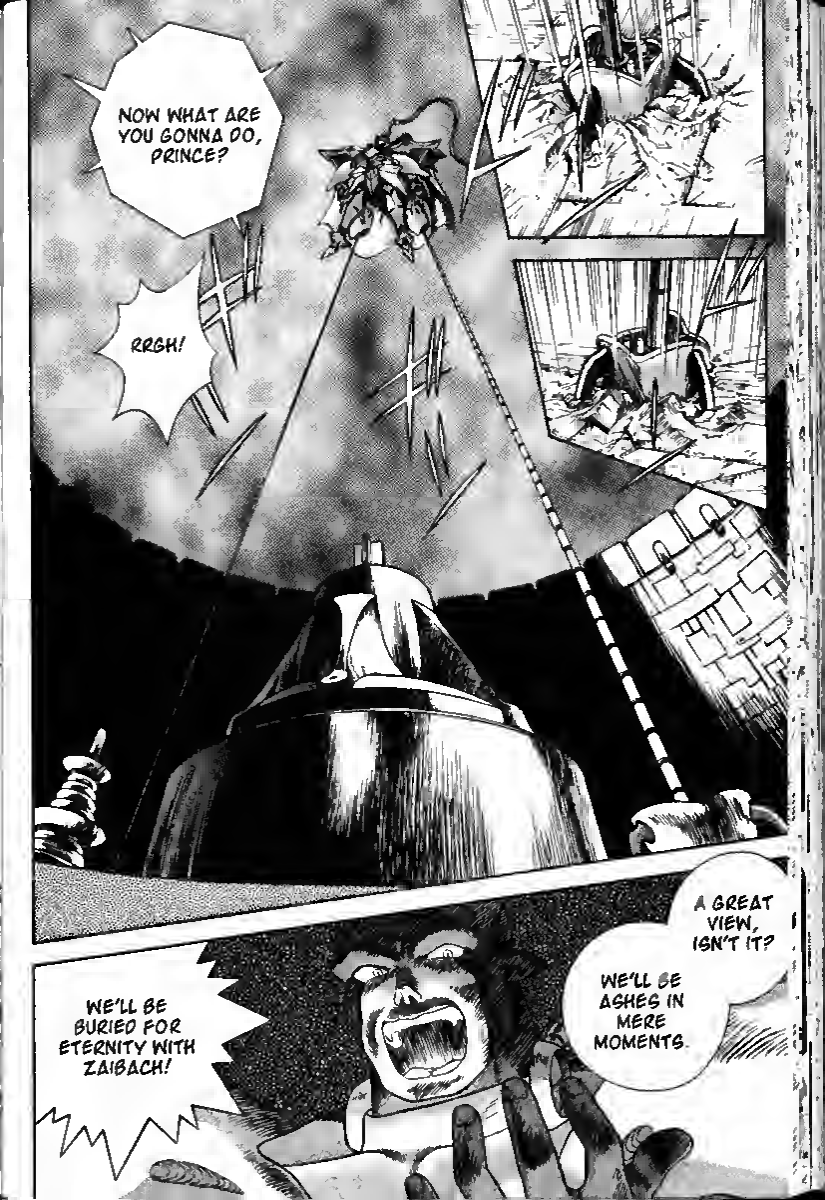
LET...THE HELL... GO!
JUST SIT STILL AND SHUT UP.
NOT MUCH LONGER NOW.
FINE, YOU IDIOT!
YOU WANT TO DIE?!
THEN I'LL SEND YOU STRAIGHT TO HELL!
WHAT?!

IT'LL TAKE MORE THAN THAT TO ESCAPE.
IS THAT ALL, PRINCE?
OW!
?!
LOOK DOWN, KIDS. THAT'S THE MINING SHAFT

Bzzt.
SON OF A BITCH


20% LEFT TO CRITICAL.
WATCH.
HE'S OUTTA HIS GODDAMN MIND!
SEE THE TRIGGER-POINT FOR THE BLAST?
WELL, YOU SHOULD, BECAUSE WE'RE RIGHT IN FRONT OF IT.
YOU CRAZY PIECE OF--

WE CAN'T..
MAKE YOUR PEACE WITH WHOMEVER YOU PRAY TO.
I'M NOT GIVING UP, OKAY? NOT NOW, NOT EVER.
YEAH?
HEY, HITOMI
I'M NOT GONNA LET THAT HAPPEN AGAIN.
FORGET THAT GUY.
I ALREADY LOST YOU ONCE.
VAN...


NOW WHAT ARE YOU GONNA DO, PRINCE?
RRGH!
A GREAT VIEW, ISN'T IT?
WE'LL BE ASHES IN MERE MOMENTS.
WE'LL BE BURIED FOR ETERNITY WITH ZAIBACH!

!!
ESCA-FLOWNE!
UNCLE!
ADMIRAL, NO!
10% TO CRITICAL.
3...
!!
2...
1...
CRITICAL POINT REACHED

YAAAH!
WHO ARE YOU?!
YOU. CHIEF.
STOP IT! PLEASE, STOP!
WE MIGHT EVEN SPARE YOUR PATHETIC RACE, AS WELL.
SURRENDER AND WE'LL SPARE YOU.
.....
HE'LL EVEN ALLOW YOU TO SERVE HIM.
OUR EMPEROR DORNKIRK IS MOST MERCIFUL.
THIS PICTURE IN MY HEAD...
IS THAT ZONG!?
WH-WHAT'S GOING ON?

IT HURTS. HIS SORROW RUNS SO DEEP.
WHY CAN I FEEL THAT? I'VE NEVER FELT A VISION BEFORE.
THIS ISN'T COMING FROM HIS MIND; IT'S COMING FROM HIS HEART!

THIS IS OUR ONLY OPTION, SON. THERE IS NO OTHER WAY.
IF I DON'T, WE'LL ALL DIE.
WE CAN'T SUBMIT TO ZAIBACH! DON'T THROW AWAY OUR PRIDE, DAD!
YOU'RE GONNA WHAT?!
WAIT, JOHAN!
WHAT?! I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU!
I CAN'T LOSE YOU...NOT NOW!
JOHAN, NO!

PLAYTIME'S OVER, ALLEN. AND I PROMISE YOU THIS: YOU WILL DIE THE NEXT TIME WE MEET
.....
NN
?!
ESCA-FLOWNE
?!
WH-WHAT'S THAT LIGHT?
!!
VAN! HITOMI!
R-RIGHT.
SHILHA, WE MUST REPORT TO THE EMPEROR.
THIS WILL NOT HAVE BEEN IN VAIN, LORD.
YOU BASTARDS KILLED UNCLE ZONG!

IT CAN'T BE...
IT'S A SHIELD! IT PROTECTED THEM FROM THE BLAST!
VAN!
ARE THEY ALIVE? VAN! HITOMI!

IT MUST REALLY HURT TO LOSE A CHILD.
HE HID SO MUCH PAIN BEHIND THOSE HARD EYES.
ZONG!...
.....
?!
Y-YEAH.
HITOMI, ARE YOU OKAY?
RIGHT.
WE SHOULD RETURN TO ASTURIA, VAN.

.....
VAN, YOU'RE ALL RIGHT!
OW...
MM?
OH. HEY, ALLEN. WHAT'S UP?
HUH?

HAVEN'T SEEN SCHERAZADE IN A WHILE. THAT YOU, ALLEN?
SHFF.
WATCH ME!
CAN YOU STILL FLY?
?!
FATHER, WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
IS THAT... NOLAND SCHEZAR?

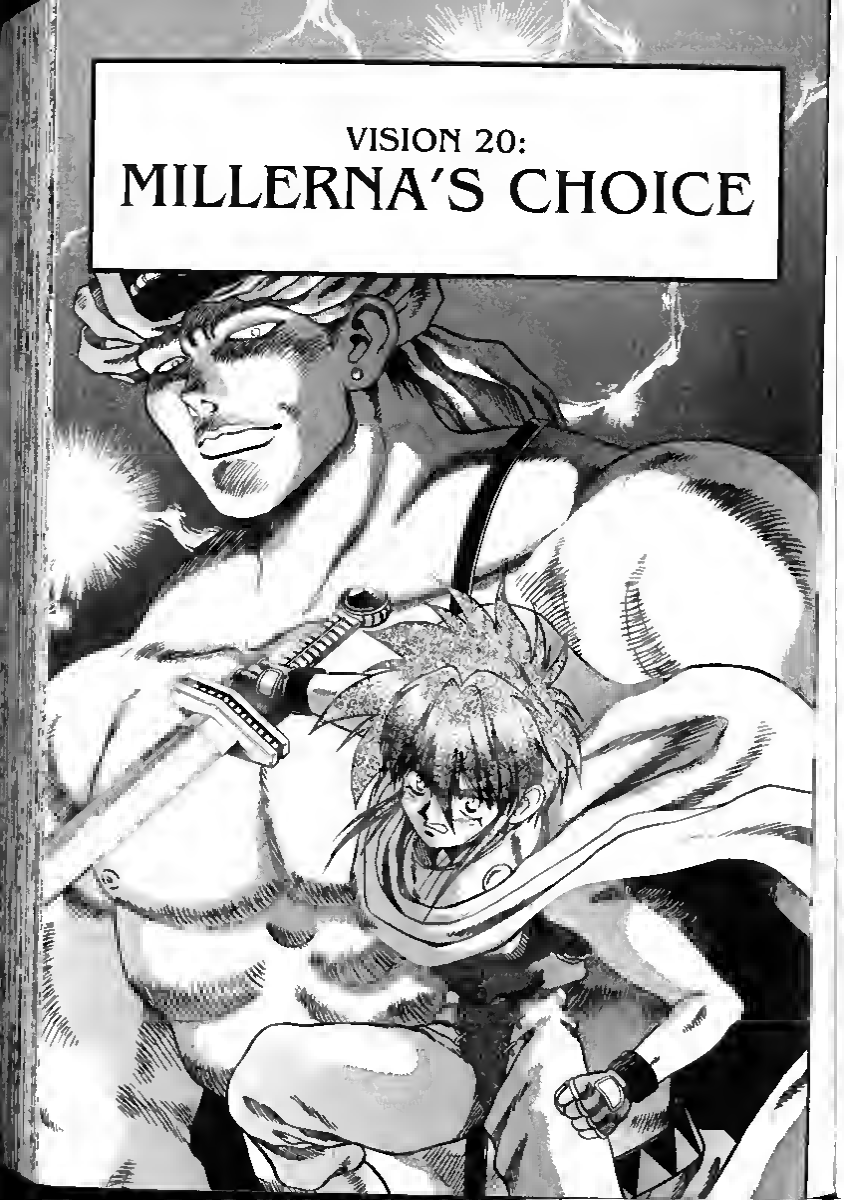
HUH?

WHAT THE HELL?!
AAAGH!!

KILL IT!

Kingdom of Asturia.

HEY, THIS AREA'S OFF-LIMITS.
I'M HERE TO SEE HIS MAJESTY.
I DON'T THINK SO, BIG MAN.
HOW ABOUT IF I ASK REALLY NICELY?
HOW ABOUT YOU GO ASK YOUR MOM FOR A SHIRT?! GET LOST!


VISION 20:
MILLERNA'S CHOICE

I'M SORRY. I'M AFRAID WEAPONS ARE NO USE AGAINST A PERFECT HUMAN ENERGIST.

COME, NOW...STOP THIS. I DISLIKE FIGHTING.
YET I'M AFRAID I CAN'T TOLERATE INTERFERENCE.

HE'S GLOWING!

WAAAGH!

Asturian Royal Palace.

..HE DOESN'T APPEAR TO BE HUMAN
AN INTRUDER IS IN THE CASTLE?
WHY HASN'T HE BEEN APPREHENDED?
FATHER..
WHAT?
YOUR MAJESTY! WELL...

THIS IS A WARNING.
WE'VE RECENTLY NOTICED SOME SUBVERSIVE ACTIONS FROM ASTURIA AND IT CONCERNS US.
SORRY FOR THE DELAY IN INTRODUCTION. I AM OPAL, AN ENVOY OF ZAIBACH.
INSOLENT CUR!
WHAT?
HGGK!!

THAT WAS FOR YOUR SINS. NOW, REPENT.
!
CRACK CRACK
WHO ARE YOU, MONSTER?!
MY, THE KING HIMSELF HAS COME TO GREET ME.

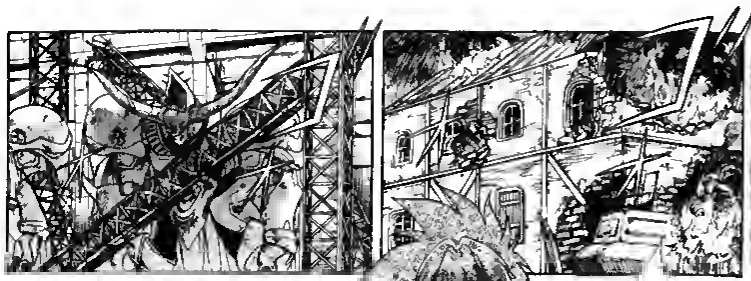
HOW VERY, VERY VILE!
HOW UNPLEASANT OF YOU!
HAAGK!
DON'T YOU REALIZE HOW EASY IT IS FOR US TO BREAK YOUR LITTLE KINGDOM?
FATHER! LEAVE HIM ALONE, DEMON!

HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN THAT YOU PLEDGED BOTH LAND AND MINERALS TO OUR CAUSE?
IN RETURN, YOU RECEIVE THE BENEFITS OF OUR ADVANCED FUEL.

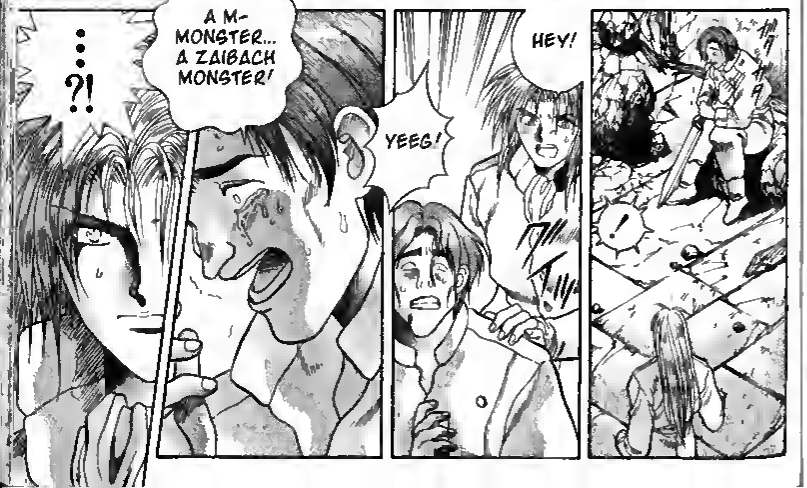
W-WE'RE NOT... HOSTILE!
WE... NNGH...
THAT AGREEMENT REQUIRES TRUST.

COULD ALLEN HAVE...
AREN'T YOU, NOW? AND WHAT ABOUT THE TROUBLE AT FUEL MINE NUMBER TWO?

NO!
AWAY, BRAT!
O-DON'T TOUCH MY DAUGHTER!
YAAGH!
FATHER!
HA HA HA HA HA!
IF WE RECEIVE EVEN A HINT OF YOU WORKING AGAINST US, YOU WILL BE DESTROYED
GGH...
I TRUST I'VE MADE THAT CLEAR



WHAT THE HELL HAPPENED HERE?


A M-MONSTER... A ZAIBACH MONSTER!
?!
YEEG!
HEY!

HANG ON, WHAT'S THAT?
WE'LL REPAIR ESCAFLOWNE ONCE WE--

THOSE HOLES...

LOOK UP THERE!

THEY LOOK LIKE WHAT I'D MAKE WITH THE ENERGIST WAVE.

I WISH I WAS.
YOU'RE KIDDING.

?!

...A VISION.
WAIT. I'M GETTING...

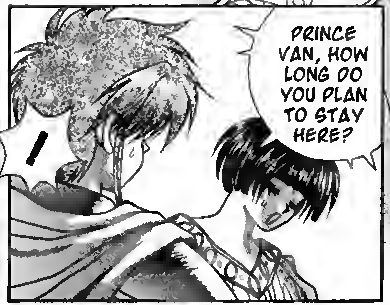
I HAVE TO GET TO THE KING!
THE CASTLE!
ALLEN! HEY!
ALLEN, WAIT!
!!
YOUR MAJESTY, WHERE ARE YOU?!

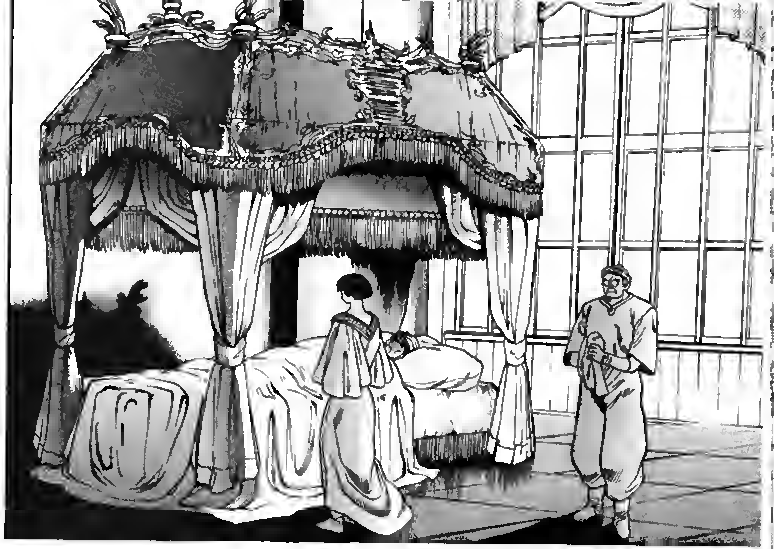
OKAY, OUT WITH IT.
I-I JUST GOT A BAD FEELING.
WHAT'S WRONG?
NGH
NN..
WHAT? ZAIBACH'S GONNA KILL ME?
UM, VAN., PLEASE BE CAREFUL. YOU ESPECIALLY.
I'VE GOT THE DEVIL'S LUCK.
SO WHAT ELSE IS NEW? DON'T WORRY, HITOMI.
AT LEAST, I HOPE SO.
UP UNTIL NOW, MY VISIONS HAVE NEVER BEEN WRONG.
ATTA GIRL!
YEAH, MAYBE I'M JUST OVER-REACTING.

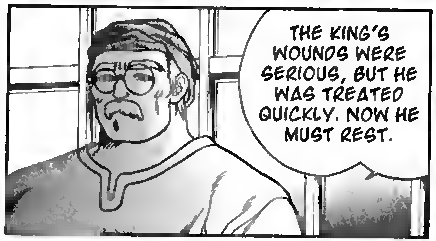
DID I...

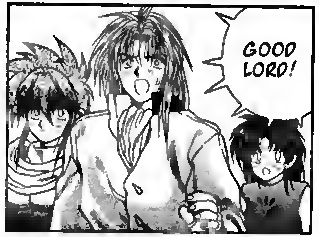
SIR ALLEN, PLEASE REFRAIN FROM ACTING WHEN IT WILL HURT OUR COUNTRY.

UH.. CRAP.
HOW LONG WILL YOU INVOLVE SIR ALLEN?!


PRINCE VAN, HOW LONG DO YOU PLAN TO STAY HERE?




THE KING'S WOUNDS WERE SERIOUS, BUT HE WAS TREATED QUICKLY. NOW HE MUST REST.


GOOD LORD!

WE'RE TRULY THANKFUL FOR ALLEN'S HELP.

!!
EXCUSE ME, MISS MILLERNA?

ENVOY?

IT WAS A ZAIBACH ENVOY.
ZAIBACH, SIR ALLEN.

I SEE.

ZAIBACH MAY BE YOUR ENEMY, BUT IT'S NOT OURS. AM I CLEAR?
PLEASE, SIR ALLEN!
STOP IT, MILLERNA!
IF YOU WANT TO FIGHT, YOU MUST LEAVE MY KINGDOM.
AND IF YOU DON'T COMPLY, I WILL HAND YOU OVER TO THE EMPIRE.
AM I CLEAR?!
MILLERNA, PLEASE.
LEAVE HER ALONE, BITCH!
HITOMI!
AH!
YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND! NONE OF YOU UNDERSTAND!
YOU'RE ALREADY TO BLAME FOR YOUR OWN COUNTRY'S FALL. WILL YOU BRING THE SAME DEATH TO MINE?!
PRINCE VAN, YOUR RECKLESS BEHAVIOR HAS PUT MY KINGDOM IN GRAVE DANGER.

WHAT RIGHT DO I HAVE TO ASK FOR YOUR HELP?
YOU'RE PROBABLY JUST A REGULAR GIRL BACK ON YOUR PLANET.
I-I WAS JUST.. UH..
NN..
I'M SORRY, I JUST... I NEED YOU.
I... I CAN SEE FLOWERS.
FLOWERS
YEAH. I GUESS THE BATTLE WEAR FINALLY CAUGHT UP.
I CAN'T BELIEVE SHE PASSED OUT.
I'LL TALK TO HER, ALL RIGHT?
VAN..PLEASE FORGIVE MILLERNA SHE'S TAKING THINGS RATHER HARD.
SEE YOU.
I'M SORRY, HITOMI. I KEEP DRAGGING YOU INTO ALL THIS.
MAN.

I PRAY FOR IT.
THIS PEACE...
...I NEVER WANT IT TO END.
I LOVE YOU, LORD ALLEN.
PLEASE BE WITH ME FOR-EVER AND EVER..
I DION'T MEAN TO MAKE YOU CRY.
I-I'M SORRY!
HITOMI?
HITOMI...
IT HAPPENED AGAIN
A VISION OF SENTIMENTS, LIKE WITH ZONGI...
UGH.
WHAT, BAD DREAM?

#7
HGG!
LORD ALLEN!
HEY, MILLERNA!
JUST KIDDING! PRETTY FUNNY, HUH?
HEE HEE!
?
OH! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
I DON'T WANT YOU TO DIE!
LORD ALLEN!
PLEASE, PLEASE WAKE UP!

I WANT TO DO WHAT I KNOW IS RIGHT.
BUT IT'S MORE THAN THAT.
I'M TOUCHED BY VAN'S DETERMINATION. HE LOST EVERYTHING, MILLERNA.
YOU'RE WRONG, SIR ALLEN! YOU'RE TOO KIND-HEARTED-- IT'S ONLY SYMPATHY!
SYMPATHY? MAYBE A LITTLE.
FORGIVE ME.
NO, DON'T APOLOGIZE!
IT'S ALL HIS FAULT. IT'S ALL PRINCE VAN'S FAULT!
THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT.
I'LL TAKE CARE OF HIM.
YES, IT IS. AND I ALREADY HAVE MY PLANS
YES?
MILLERNA.
I. I CHANGED AFTER I MET VAN.
I DIDN'T REALLY BELIEVE IN WHAT I WAS DOING BEFORE.
.....

I UNDERSTAND WHAT SHE'S FEELING.
PLEASE DON'T HATE HER.
NO, VAN.
I'M NOT REALLY SYMPATHETIC AFTER WHAT SHE SAID, THOUGH.
SHE REALLY LOVES ALLEN.
OH, CRAP.
YOU ARE HEREBY DEEMED A THREAT TO THE KINGDOM, AND ARE TO BE EXECUTED IMMEDIATELY.
BY ORDER OF THE PRINCESS...
WHAT DO YOU WANT?

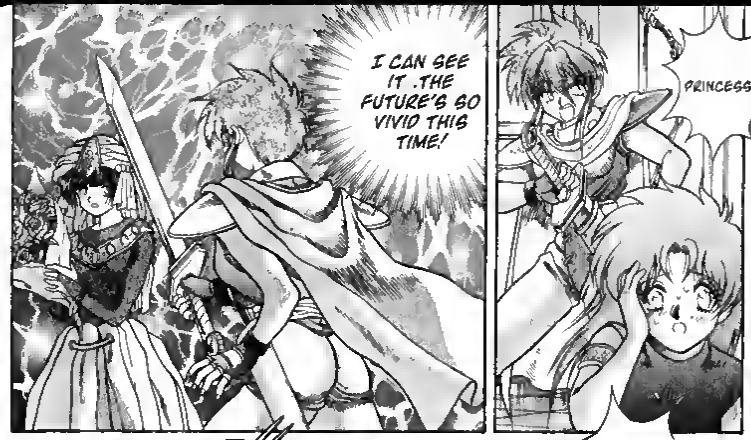
A SENTIMENT VISION?
YEAH. THE FIRST TIME WAS RIGHT BEFORE ZONGI DIED.
IT WAS MORE THAN JUST A VISION. IT WAS, LIKE... SYNCHING.
THAT'S PRETTY WEIRD.
AND A FEW MINUTES AGO, TOO. I FELT MILLERNA'S PAIN.

SHOOT THEM! NOW!
YAAAH!
HOLD ON, HITOMI.
HUH?
DAMMIT! AND MY SWORD'S GONE!
FIRE!
TELL ALLEN HIS HOSPITALITY STINKS!
THIS IS THE LAST STRAW, MILLENA!
YOUR ASS IS MINE!

HUH?
SHIAN!
MORNING, SUNSHINE.
MM.. HM?
HE WAS REALLY FURIOUS. HEH.
LONG TIME NO SEE! VAN DROPPED YOU OFF. SAID HE NEEDED A WORD WITH THE PRINCESS.
LADY HITOMI?
OW!
HE--

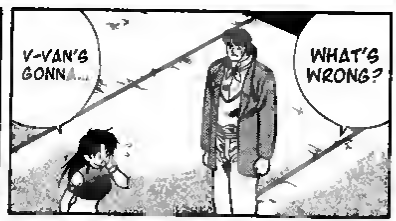
YOUR HIGHNESS! UH.
SO YOU FAILED.
I SUSPECT PRINCE VAN WILL ARRIVE SOON.
I'M FULLY PREPARED.

VAN!
NOOOOOO!


I CAN SEE IT. THE FUTURE'S SO VIVID THIS TIME!
PRINCESS!

I DESPISE YOU!

GOD, PLEASE, NO!
MILLERNA'S GONNA KILL HIM!


V-VAN'S GONNA...
WHAT'S WRONG?

HEY, WAIT!
A!!

LISTEN UP, PRINCESS!
WHERE ARE YOU, VAN?
Huff! Huff!
WAIT A SECOND.
IF I CONCENTRATE, MAYBE...
!!
DO COME IN.
.....

HM?
WHAT?
KNOCK, KNOCK.
WHAT'S THAT MEAN?
HEH. THERE YOU ARE
THE PRINCESS HAS BEEN WAITING. FOLLOW ME.

IF YOU WANT MY BLOOD ON YOUR HANDS, KNOCK YOURSELF OUT
TALK? YOU'RE A FOOL!
HA HA HA!
YOU'RE TOO STUPID TO SEE THE DANGER YOU'RE IN!
DON'T YOU DARE TALK ABOUT HIM!
I DOUBT ALLEN'D BE VERY HAPPY WITH YOU.
PLEASE LET ME BE IN TIME!
LEFT!
DON'T DIE, VAN!
WHAT DO YOU WANT?
I'M NOT HERE TO HURT YOU. WE NEED TO TALK.
HMM.

DON'T DO THIS. I KNOW YOU'RE A GOOD PERSON. I KNOW HOW GENTLE YOU ARE DEEP DOWN.
YOU'RE WRONG.
HITOMI?
VAN!
I DESPISE YOU!
VAN!

GIVE HIM BACK!
GIVE HIM BACK TO ME!
THIS IS ALL YOUR FAULT. YOU'RE DRIVING ALLEN AWAY FROM HIS COUNTRY!

HE ABANDONED US WHEN WE NEEDED HIM MOST!
HE NEVER LEFT. DO YOU REALLY THINK HE'S FORGOTTEN YOU?

LOOK, AS SOON AS ESCAFLOWNE'S FIXED, WE'LL LEAVE.
I DON'T WANT TO BRING HARM TO ASTURIA
HE'S TRYING TO PROTECT YOU, PRINCESS
HE DIDN'T ABANDON YOU HE DID WHAT HE THOUGHT WAS NECESSARY TO ENSURE ASTURIA'S SAFETY.
STOP LYING!

...AND I HATE TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THAT.
BUT I WANT HIM HERE SO DESPERATELY!
I KNOW HE'S TOO KIND TO LEAVE ME...

NN..
MMOH!

I DION'T BECAUSE OF THAT VISION YOU HAD.
I'D PLANNED TO USE MY SWORD.
HITOMI ...
HUH? SO THE FUTURE WAS CHANGED...
...BECAUSE OF A SENTIMENT VISION?

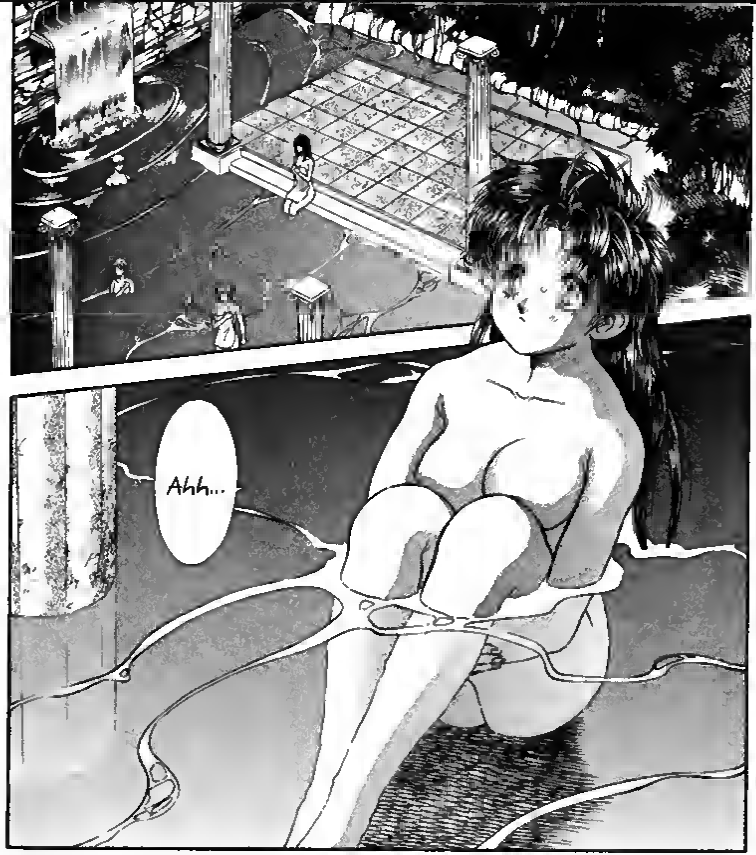
I...I KNOW. I'VE ALWAYS KNOWN.
FOR SIR ALLEN...
I AM AND ALWAYS WILL BE A BURDEN.

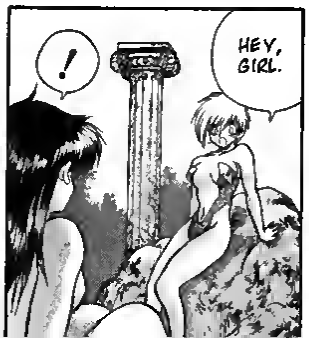
QUIET, SHILHA.
WHAT WAS THAT?!
WE WILL AVENGE ADMIRAL ZONG!, MAKE NO MISTAKE.
RAYONG ARE SUCH PATHETIC CREATURES.
WHAT A FAILURE THAT ZONG! TURNED OUT TO BE.
Heh Heh
AH. I AM SORRY FOR YOUR LOSS.
INDEED, THE EMPEROR ALREADY TOLD ME ALL ABOUT THEIR FILTHY ENERGIST.
THEIR GIRL SEEMS TO BE THE KEY TO ALL THIS.
I'M REALLY WANTING TO KICK THIS GUY'S AGS RIGHT NOW, COLT. CAN I?
LORD OPAL, IF YOU PLEASE.
Zaibach Empire.
WHAT IS IT, OPAL?
!!
NOW, REGARDING MINE NUMBER TWO...
TITLE? I HAVE NO NEED FOR ONE.
WE WERE UNAWARE OF YOUR TITLE.
OH, FOR THE LOVE OF--
BUT STILL, WHAT AN UNGAINLY OUTCOME.
...AND THAT DEEMED THE PLACE RATHER USELESS.
I HOPE YOU HAVE SOMETHING PLANNED THE MINE WAG UNABLE TO PRODUCE A PERFECT ENERGIST.

VISION 21:
RENEGADE?!
SHE IS ESCA-FLOWNE'S WEAKNESS.
..THAT MAKES THINGS EASIER.
AND YET...
SHE SOUNDS MOST DISTASTEFUL.
THAT CHILD SICKENS ME TO THE CORE ..
...AND I WILL BE MOST PLEASED TO END HER MISERABLE LIFE.

...I STILL DON'T UNDERSTAND THE POWER SUPPLY.
WHAT KINDA STONE'S THAT?
BUT...
ENERGIST?! I'VE JUST HEARD RUMORS...
IT'S AN ENERGIST. CRYSTALLIZED SUPER FUEL.
HITOMI'S ENERGIST, TOO. THAT'S WHY SHE CAN INTERACT WITH ESCAFLOWNE.
HITOMI GETS HER GOING THROUGH THE ENERGY PANEL.
WITHOUT HER, MY GOO CAN'T FIGHT.
ALL FIXED, PRINCE.
HOW IS SHE?
SHE'S DEFINITELY UP TO SPEED WITH OUR CURRENT KNIGHT MACHINES. SHE MAY EVEN BE BETTER.
IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE SHE'S 300 YEARS OLD.

YOU SURE LOOK HUMAN. HARD TO BELIEVE YOU'RE ENERGIST UNDER THERE.
HUH?
SO WHAT ARE YOU, ANYWAY?
NO! BAD TOUCH!
CAN I FEEL?
I GOT TO SEE AN ENERGIST ONCE WHEN I WAS A KID.
DITCH THE "TOGETHER" BIT. HE WAS A PRINCE. I BARELY KNEW HIM!
YOU AND VAN HAVE BEEN TOGETHER THAT LONG?
I WENT TO THE TEMPLE WITH VAN. IT WAS AGAINST ALL SORTS OF RULES.


Ahh...


!
HEY, GIRL.

I'M NOT SURE IF I CAN HANDLE ALL THIS.
SO MUCH HAS HAPPENED SINCE I CAME BACK.

THAT COUNTRY'S ON FIRE!
THE FUTURE AGAIN?

WAS HE YOUR FIRST LOVE?
AFTER I TURNED SIX OR SO, WE WERE SPLIT UP.
THAT DORK? HELL NO!
?!
WH-WHAT'S GOING...

THE MINE WE WERE AT ONLY HAD FAILED PROJECTS, BUT THERE MAY BE COMPLETE ONES SOMEWHERE ELSE.
YEAH
THERE'RE OTHERS LIKE YOU?
AND ZAIBACH'S MAKING THEM?
ANOTHER ENERGIST HUMAN?
ONE OF THE SOLDIERS SAID IT WAS A MONSTER...
THAT WOULD EXPLAIN THE ENVOY WHO ATTACKED.
THAT SOUNDS FAMILIAR...
PERHAPS, BUT THE ATTACKER SPECIFICALLY TURNED HIS HANDS INTO CRYSTAL.
THAT MAN'S AN ENERGIST!
YOU OKAY? WHY'D YOU SCREAM?
AAAH!
rustle
UH... WATER'S COLD.
beep

.....
EASY, VAN WE'RE DEAD IF WE GO ALONE. AND INVOLVING ASTURIA AGAIN IS OUT OF THE QUESTION.
DAMMIT! WHAT'RE WE WAITING FOR?
THAT ENERGIST GUY'S PROBABLY ON HIS WAY!
WHAT? YOU THINK THAT GUY NOLAND'LL HELP?
THE REVOLUTIONIST'S ARMY.
I'D SAY IT'S TIME FOR A FAMILY REUNION.
WHA?
I HOPE SO. HE'S MY FATHER.

BUT WHO ARE THEY ATTACKING?
shit
I'M MORE CONCERNED ABOUT HITOMI'S VISION.
IT MAY MEAN ZAIBACH'S PLANNING THEIR NEXT ATTACK.
LOOK HERE.
slap
SO FAR, THE EMPIRE HAS TARGETED LANDS WITH FUEL.
I'VE MARKED THEM DOWN.
LAGUSU MENTIONED THE THREE REMAINING SPOTS WITH SUPER-FUEL DEPOSITS.
ONE UNDER THE OCEAN, ONE INSIDE THIS CANYON, AND HERE...
...IN THE OUCHY OF FREID.

PREPARE THE EXECUTION OF ALLEN SCHEZAR.
YOU FORGET HE ATTACKED ZAIBACH. HE MUST BE PUNISHED.
I'M AFRAID..
...HE MUST DIE.
FORGET HIM, MILLERNA. HE'S BROUGHT TOO MUCH PAIN TO OUR KINGDOM.
FATHER, YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUS!
ALLEN IS DEAD TO US NOW.
M-MILLERNA, DARLING.
ALLEN MUST NOT J-JOIN THAT ARMY.
YOU DON'T REALIZE THE POWER OF THE EMPIRE!
WHY? THIS IS HIS OWN CHOICE.
AND MY OWN POWER WILL BE QUESTIONED.
IF WE P-PARDON ALLEN, ZAIBACH WILL BE ANGRY.
UHN...
STAY STILL

YOU'RE FRICKIN' KIDDING ME!
WHAT THE HELL DID ALLEN DO?!
ALLEN! CAN YOU HEAR ME?
HITOMI?

WHAT IS IT, LANCE?
.....

RRG!
FIGHTING ZAIBACH IS SUICIDE ALLEN HAS DUG OUR GRAVES!
WE NEVER ASKED FOR THAT!
VAN, IT'S OKAY
YEAH!
WHAT?
OH, MAN..
DON'T SAY THAT!
THIS IS THE WAY THINGS HAVE TO BE.

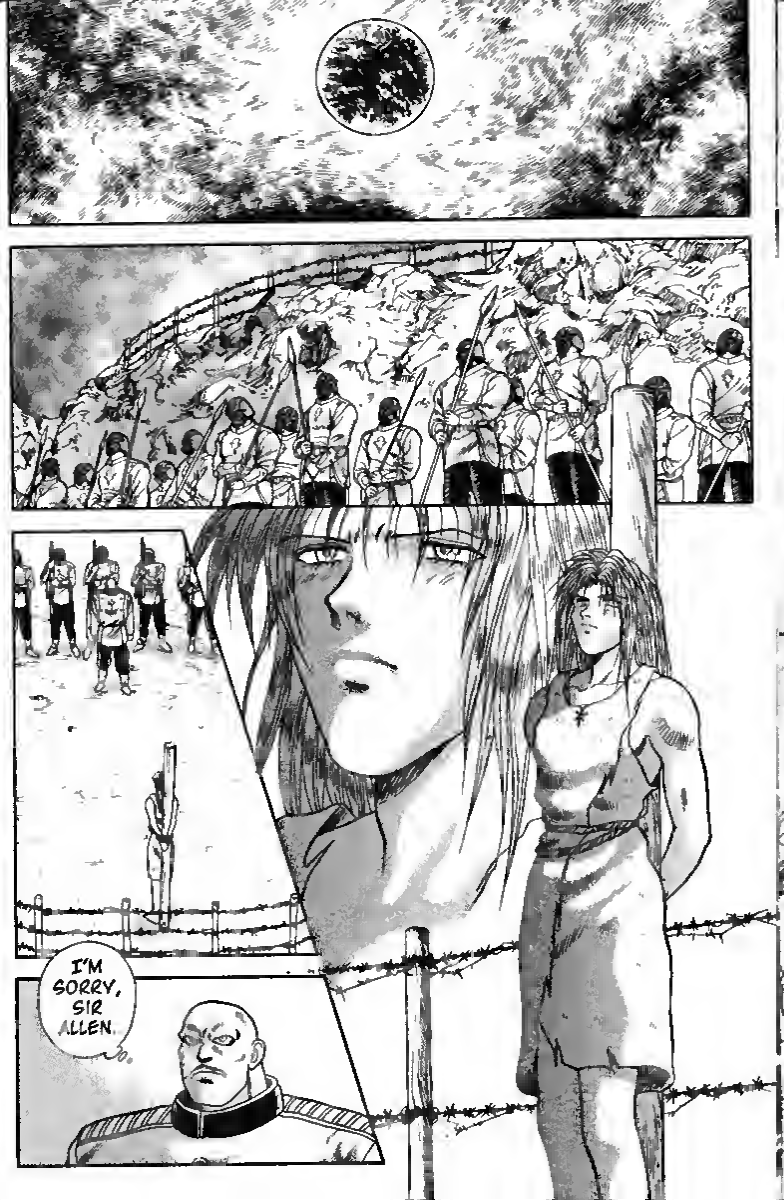
ALLEN! ALLEN!
MOVE IT, DICKWEED!
HEY, YOU TWO!
WHAT THE HELL IS WRONG WITH YOU PEOPLE? ALLEN'S BEEN FIGHTING ZAIBACH TO SAVE YOU!

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN ASTURIA?
LORD OPAL..
KILL!
KILL HIM!
ALL OF YOU, LISTEN TO ME.
THINK OF YOURSELVES. THINK OF YOUR KINGDOM!
NEVER COMPROMISE WHAT YOU BELIEVE IN!
IS THAT RIGHT ?
ACCORDING TO THE SURVEILLANCE SPIDER, ALLEN SCHEZAR IS ABOUT TO BE EXECUTED
I'D SAY IT'S ABOUT DAMN TIME.
YOU GUYS CAN'T DO THIS!!
beep beep
BUT..
YOU CAN'T..

AH, THERE WE ARE.
IT'S BEEN SOME TIME SINCE I HAD A VISION!
ESCAFLOWNE AND THAT FILTHY GIRL ARE ON THEIR WAY.
THEY'LL BE THERE.
Very well.
ALLOW ME TO GO, EMPEROR DORNKIRK.
I CAN FEEL IT AROUND ME.
THE FUTURE OF ZAIBACH GROWS EVER BRIGHTER, LORD.

THAT'S THE PERISCOPE ALARM.
A FUEL DEPOSIT HAS BEEN LOCATED!
!!
ESTIMATED QUANTITY IS 60 MILLION GALLEL.* LOCATION IS DUCHY OF FREID, WEST-SOUTHWEST 4300!
*Note: A "gallel" is a Gaean unit of measurement.
Hn... The Duchy of Freid.
?!

THIS PIPE SHOULD LEAD TO THE EXECUTION SITE.
HURRY THE HELL UP!
GOOD, WE CAN STILL MAKE IT.
ALLEN CAN KISS MY FANELIAN ASS I WON'T LET HIM DIE!
GOD, PLEASE LET HIM BE OKAY!
DON'T CRY WE'LL SAVE HIM!
MM!
!!
creak
HERE'S THE EXIT. LET'S GO!


I'M SORRY, SIR ALLEN.

I MUST ASK THAT YOU LEAVE IMMEDIATELY.
PLEASE, LISTEN TO US!
THIS IS COMPLETE CRAP! WAKE UP, MILLERNA!
IF YOU REFUSE, YOU WILL DIE WITH ALLEN
THIS IS WRONG AND YOU KNOW IT!
!!
THIS EXECUTION IS BY ORDER OF THE KING.
I'M AFRAID YOU MUST HALT.
I'M THE PRINCESS OF ASTURIA FIRST, A WOMAN SECOND.
I HAVE NO SAY IN THIS.
SCREW THAT! LOOK AT YOURSELF!
THIS IS FOR THE GOOD OF MY COUNTRY.
M-MILLERNA?
I KNOW THIS ISN'T WHAT YOU WANT.
DON'T DO THIS.

N..
NOOO!
ALLEN!
!!
ALLEN, NO!
FIRE!
?!

HANG ON.
THIS BUG'S GETTING SQUISHED!
DUCK!
?!
VAN, BEHIND YOU!
WH-WHAT THE HELL?
AH, CRUD.
WHAT IS THAT THING?
VAN, A LITTLE HELP?

IT FELT TERRIBLE EVEN SHOOTING BLANKS AT YOU, SIR.
TAKE CARE, LANCE.
YES, SIR.
SCHERAZADE AND THE AEROSHIP ARE READY TO DEPART.
I'M AFRAID THEY MAY BE MAD AT ME FOR A WHILE.
WOULD YOU MIND TELLING VAN AND HITOMI?

WAIT. YOU MEAN..
FROM THE EMPIRE.
IT'S A ROBOT?
HUH?
IT'S HOW THEY OBSERVE US.
GOOD. NOW THAT IT'S DESTROYED, WE CAN STOP THIS.
SIR ALLEN SCHEZAR VIII HAS BEEN PUT TO DEATH.

I'M SURE SIR ALLEN WILL RETURN TO US SOMEDAY.
SOMEDAY, WHEN PEACE EMBRACES ASTURIA
I'LL PRAY FOR IT
GOOD-BYE, SIR ALLEN.

YES.
SO ALLEN'S LEFT FOR THE BASE?
I JUST HOPE OUR PLOY WORKED.
DON'T BE SORRY, FATHER.
FORGIVE ME. IT WAS A LOT TO ASK OF YOU, MILLERNA.

SIR ALLEN SAID THEY LIE BEYOND THE FOREST OF DECEPTION.
SO, WHERE THEM ARMY BOYS BE AT?
A NEW BAND OF REBELS I CAN'T WAIT TO RAISE SOME HELL.
ANOTHER VISION?
I'VE BEEN GETTING SO MANY RECENTLY.

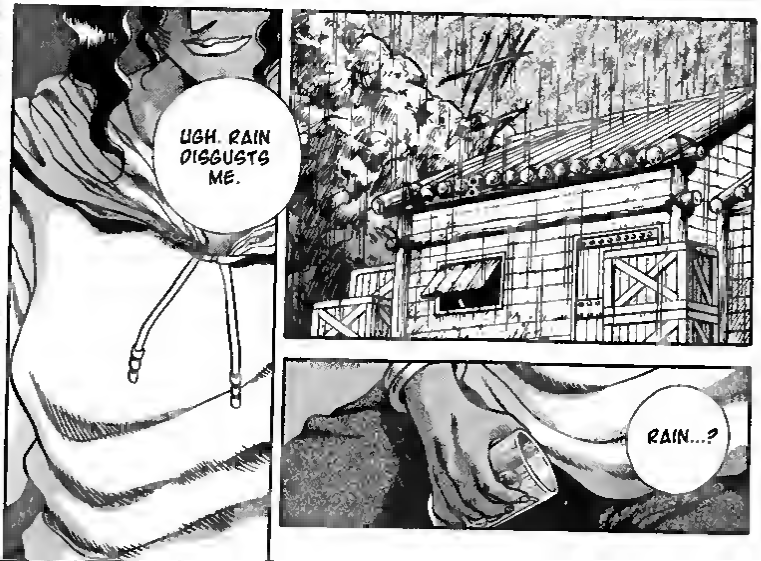
AND MILLERNA
THE KING WENT THROUGH A LOT FOR ME.
UM, VAN? HOW LONG DO YOU PLAN TO IGNORE ME?
THAT'S RIGHT! LYING LIKE THAT'LL GET ENMA* TO PULL YOUR TONGUE CLEAN OUT!
SCREW YOU IN THE EAR, DICK! I HOPE YOU CHOKE ON A KNIFE!

*Enma: A fabled Japanese demon known to pull out the tongues of liars.

I DON'T KNOW WHAT IT IS, BUT... THAT DRAGON WILL AFFECT THE FATE OF ESCAFLOWNE.
A DRAGON...
IT'S NOT A HAWK DRAGON, THAT'S FOR SURE.
HITOMI?
SHE MUST BE SEEING SOMETHING.

HE'S NOT VERY POPULAR WITH THE TROOPS.
WHAT DO WE DO ABOUT HIM?
UM, SIR?

I'M SURE WE CAN FIND A USE FOR HIM.
LEAVE HIM TO ME.


UGH. RAIN DISGUSTS ME.
RAIN...?

SO, HE'S COMING.
IT'S JUST...MY BOY.
HE'S FINALLY WALKING HIS OWN PATH.
AND I'M PROUD OF THE LITTLE TYKE.
DO I?
YOU LOOK HAPPY TODAY, SIR.

VISION 22:

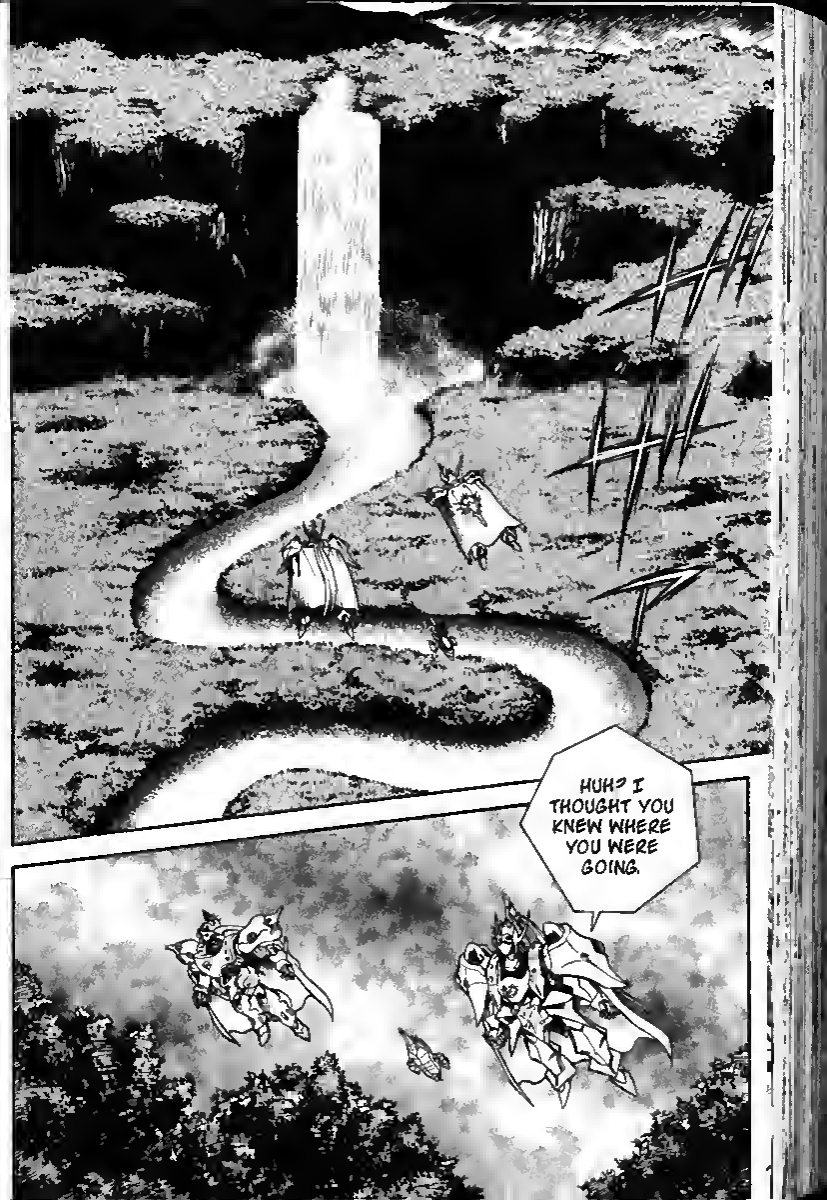
THE REVOLUTIONIST'S ARMY

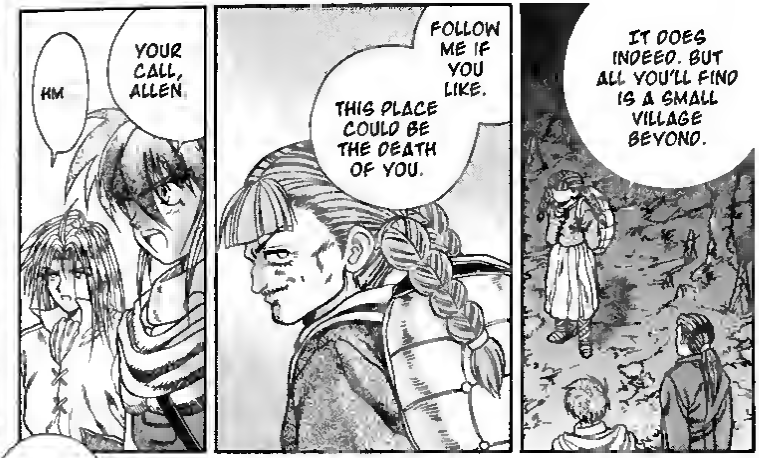
NOW THAT MY MOTHER IS DEAD.
..I DON'T KNOW WHY I'M STILL FIGHTING.
HUH?
YO, HITOMI.
I'VE BEEN THINKING
I MEAN, I STILL WANNA KICK ZAIBACH'S ASS AND ALL SONS OF BITCHES
BUT STILL...

M-ME? I DON'T THINK..
THAT'S WHERE YOU COME IN.
I THINK YOU'RE THE KEY TO ALL THIS.
YOU'VE HAD ALL THOSE WEIRD VISIONS LATELY. MAYBE THEY'RE A MESSAGE.
YOU THINK SO?
OVER THERE, VAN.

DORNKIRK SAID HE WAS TRYING TO SAVE THE PLANET, Y'KNOW?
DON'T TELL ME YOU BELIEVED HIM!
NO IT JUST GOT ME WONDERING ABOUT WHAT'S BEST FOR THE PLANET
SO MANY PEOPLE— EACH WITH THEIR OWN AGENDA
YET THERE'S ONLY ONE TRUTH

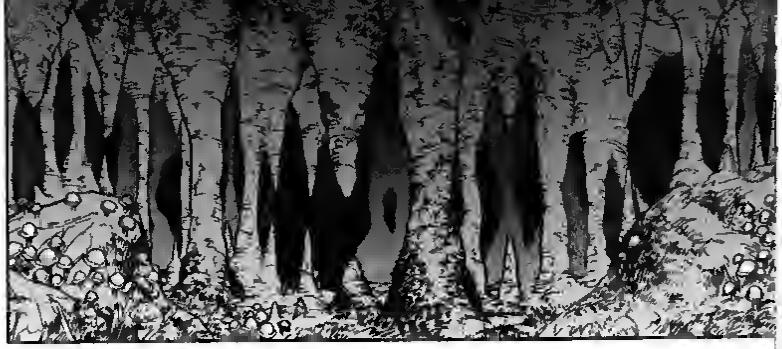
LET'S GO.
THE ARMY MUST BE BEHIND THAT WATERFALL
I DO. RELAX
SEE? THERE'S A TUNNEL BACK HERE
WE'VE GOTTA GO ON FOOT.

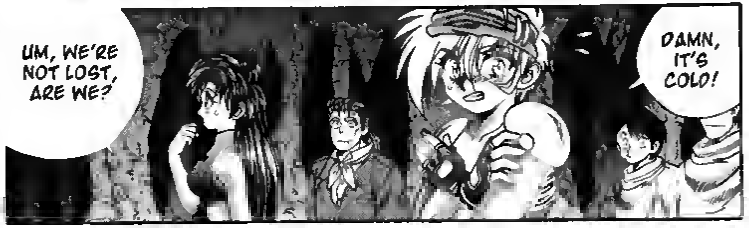

HUH? I THOUGHT YOU KNEW WHERE YOU WERE GOING.


HM
YOUR CALL, ALLEN.
THIS PLACE COULD BE THE DEATH OF YOU.
FOLLOW ME IF YOU LIKE.
IT DOES INDEED. BUT ALL YOU'LL FIND IS A SMALL VILLAGE BEYOND.

DO WE HAVE TO?
WHAT? ER, ALL RIGHT.
FINE. AS A BACKUP, WOULD YOU MIND TAKING THE OTHERS BACK TO THE SHIP, POKER?
DON'T WORRY, WE'LL BE BACK SOON.

.....




UM, WE'RE NOT LOST, ARE WE?
DAMN, IT'S COLD!

YEESH! CREEPY OLD LADY.
DOES THIS PATH GO THROUGH?
AND WHO ARE YOU?

THIS WAY.
WOW! I CAN SEE MY HOUSE FROM HERE.
JUST TRY NOT TO FALL, VAN
YIKES!
WATCH YOUR STEP. THE FALL'S A FATAL ONE.
HUH? THIS IS A DEAD END
!!
HEADS UP, VAN
WHA?
AH?
SEE YA, SUCKERS! NYA HA!
HEY! THAT WALKING CORPSE TRICKED US!

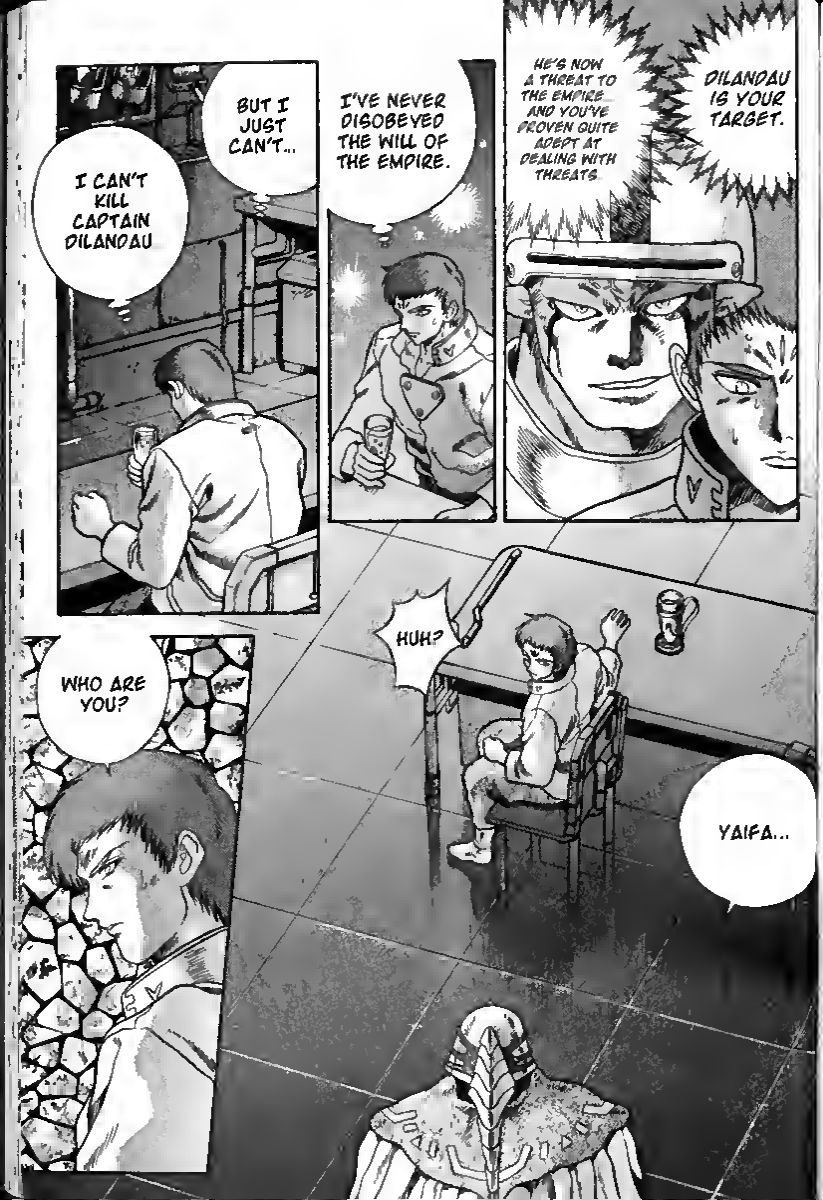
HA!
AAGH!
KYIII!
SHIAN!
KYII!
KY...!
CRAP.

PAWS OFF!
VAN!
OH CRAP!
HUH?
WHEN I'M THIS PISSED, SO AM I!
WATCH IT, THESE THINGS ARE POISONOUS.
WHERE THE HELL'RE THEY ALL COMING FROM?
YAAH!
D-De Fala...

OH, WE KNOW
WE'VE GOT INFORMATION ON ZAIBACH
ALLEN... YOU'RE DAMN TALL
NOLAND. The hag's yours?
OH
THEY'RE GOING FOR FREID, RIGHT?
YOU'RE FROM ZAIBACH...
WE'VE BEEN FOLLOWING THEIR MOVEMENTS
MY DEMON MACHINE IS EQUIPPED WITH THE SAME PERISCOPE ZAIBACH USES
HOW'D YOU KNOW THAT?
IT'S THE ARMY!
HEY!
KYIIIII!
SORRY, KIDS. MY BAD.
WHOOPS DIDN'T REALIZE IT WAS YOU.

WHAT'S HE DOING HERE?!
O-DILANDAU! YOU'RE...

I'VE BEEN A LOT OF THINGS
I WAS, ONCE.
BUT NOW I'M A RENEGADE PRINCE VAN MUCH LIKE YOURSELF.

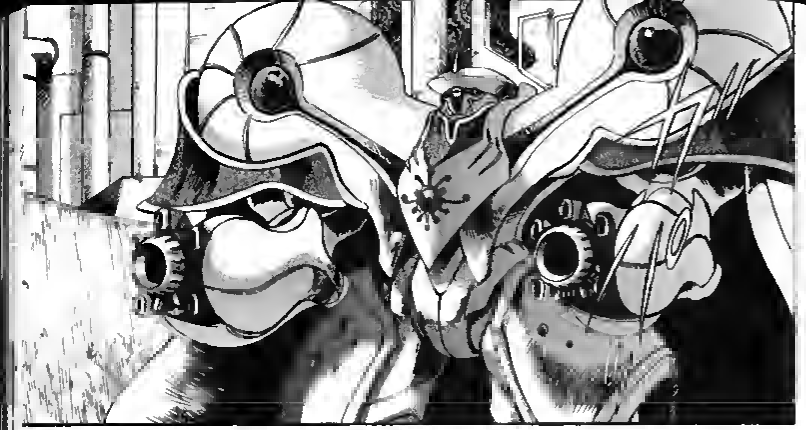

I CAN'T KILL CAPTAIN DILANDAU
BUT I JUST CAN'T...
I'VE NEVER DISOBEYED THE WILL OF THE EMPIRE.
HE'S NOW A THREAT TO THE EMPIRE AND YOU'VE PROVEN QUITE ADEPT AT DEALING WITH THREATS.
DILANDAU IS YOUR TARGET.
WHO ARE YOU?
HUH?
YAIFA...

GA HA HA!

HAH!
WHAT AM I DOING?

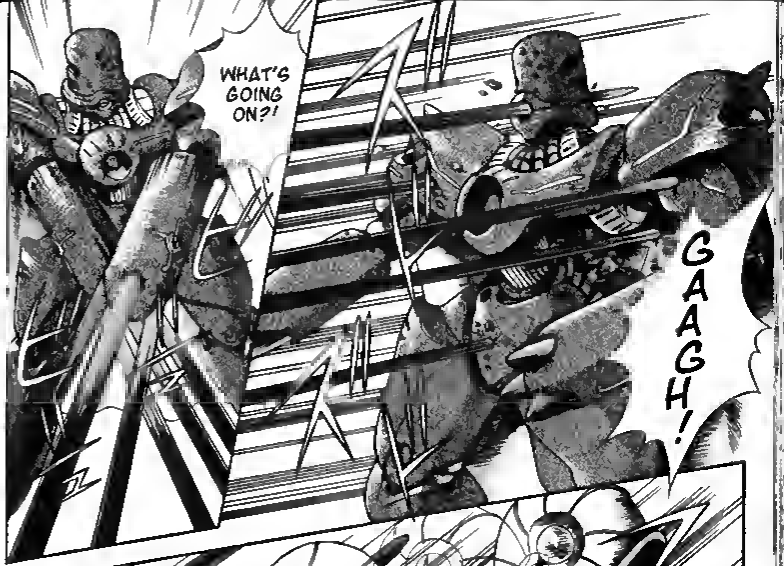
SO TELL ME... WHY DOES HE STILL LIVE?
YOUR ORDERS WERE TO KILL DILANDAU ALBATOU.
...OR THE NEXT DEATH SENTENCE THE EMPEROR ISSUES WILL BE YOUR OWN.
YOUR ORDERS HAVEN'T CHANGED. EITHER FULFILL THEM..
G-GUYMELEF?
THE STEEL DEMONS WILL SOON LAUNCH UNDER OUR SECOND COMMANDER ODAL.
PREPARE YOURSELF FOR THE POWER OF THE MIGHTY GUYMELEF!
STEEL DEMONS?
I'M ONE OF THE FOUR STEEL DEMONS.
WE'RE UNDER DIRECT COMMAND OF THE EMPEROR.
WHAT ARE YOU?
WE ARE FAR MORE CAPABLE THAN YOUR PATHETIC DEMON MACHINES.
!!

Steel Demon Betelgas.
WHAT THE HELL IS THAT?
YOU MAY BEGIN, OPAL.
MAN WHAT KINDA TEST IS THIS?



I'M SORRY, GENTLEMEN, BUT YOU'VE BECOME OBSOLETE.

FAREWELL!


WHAT'S GOING ON?!
GAAGH!

YO, THIS ISN'T FUNNY!

TREMBLE BEFORE ME, ALL ENEMIES OF ZAIBACH!
THIS IS HOW IT FEELS TO BECOME A GOD!!
TREMBLE BEFORE ME, ESCAFLOWNE!
HMM.
SO THIS IS WHAT PERFECTION FEELS LIKE...
A COMPLETE SUCCESS!
AMAZING
YAAAH!

MOST, THOUGH, ARE PEOPLE WHO ESCAPED FROM ZAIBACH'S CONQUESTS.
WE WELCOME ALL SORTS IN THE REVOLUTIONIST'S ARMY.
THANKS
HERE YOU ARE.
UH-OH.
WHY ARE YOU SHELTERING A SOLDIER OF THE EMPIRE?
LUGAU, SIR.

SO YOU'RE THE KIDS NOLAND WAS SO IMPRESSED BY.
I'M LUGAU, THE GRAND CHIEF AROUND HERE. WELCOME!
WOW, THIS'S GOOD!
DRINK UP! IT'LL PUT SOME HAIR ON YOUR CHEST. HA HA!

LOOK, JUST STEER CLEAR OF DILANDAU, OKAY?
WHAT ABOUT IT?
!!
HMPH
WHA? BUT THAT BAST--
GOT IT?
I DIDN'T BRING YOU HERE TO MAKE TROUBLE.

SOLDIER? FORGET THE SINGULAR, KIO-- WE'VE GOT LOADS OF EX-ZAIBACH BOYS.
IN FACT, I'M ONE OF 'EM.
RICH, AIN'T IT?
IS THAT SO?
MOST LEFT AFTER LEARNING WHAT ZAIBACH'S REALLY UP TO
ARE YOU REALLY THE PRINCE OF FANELIA?
HEY, VAN.

ba-
dump
chink
HUH
?
!!

YOU MURDERED MY MOTHER, DILANDAU!
WHO'S WALKING? AND I'D SAY THE NIGHT'S JUST ABOUT PERFECT.
.....
!!
YES, I DID...
THAT PRETTY LITTLE BIRD...
..DIED RIGHT IN MY ARMS..
PRETTY WET NIGHT FOR A WALK, ISN'T IT?

In the next volume of

THE • VISION • OF ESCAFLOWNE

It's the moment you've been waiting for! At last, Prince Van confronts Dilandau Albatou, the brutal captain who murdered his mother. Blood will undoubtedly spill, but will Van be the spiller or the spillee? Meanwhile, Emperor Dornkirk rallies his forces for an attack on the Duchy of Freid, the peaceful dukedom that also holds the last significant deposit of "super fuel" on Gaea. The Revolutionist's Army will do whatever it takes to defend Freid, but their only hope of victory rests in the hands of a very confused Hitomi!

YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED
I HATE YOU DILANDAU!
I DON'T CARE WHAT ANYONE SAYS YOU'RE STILL A MURDERER
AND TONIGHT, WE FINISH WHAT WE STARTED THE DAY YOU INVADED FANELIA!
To be continued...